



News Release

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COMPASS GRANT, NEW VALE OUTLET MOVES SW IDAHO BIOFUEL EFFORT FORWARD

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A \$15,000 grant from the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho and the opening of a new biodiesel public outlet in Southeastern Oregon will provide a strong boost to the growing use of B20 biodiesel in the region, program managers with the Idaho Energy Division's B20 Idaho biodiesel program said today.

The COMPASS grant will go towards buying down the additional cost of the biofuel as a transition device allowing more selected Idaho diesel fuel fleet operators to begin regular use of the environmentally friendly fuel. Typically, B20 biodiesel costs about 10-15 cents more per gallon than its petroleum diesel fuel counterpart. The COMPASS grant will let B20 program managers buy down upwards of 100,000 more gallons of B20 biodiesel than originally planned.

"The Community Planning Association believes promotion of B20 diesel usage is a win-win situation for the Treasure Valley economy and individual citizens. The use of B20 diesel fuel promotes agriculture while reducing air pollution," said Matt Stoll, COMPASS Transportation/Air Quality Director.

On Tuesday (Sept. 23) in Vale, Oregon a public B20 biodiesel fueling pump officially opened for business at the Fletcher Chevron station. It is the first ever biodiesel public fuel outlet in Southeastern Oregon and will provide a ready source of fuel to government and private sector diesel vehicles operating in southwestern Idaho and southeastern Oregon.

The Vale B20 outlet is owned by Eckhardt Companies of Fruitland, Idaho and operated by Fletcher Petroleum.

"We decided to add biodiesel to accommodate diesel fleets, including the BLM that are stationed in Vale, as well as providing an alternative fuel source for the public and other county, state and federal agencies. We feel that bio-diesel will be mutually beneficial on the environment as well as on diesel motors," said Cheri Moore an Eckhardt Companies spokeswoman

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The B20 fuel is a mixture of 20 percent soybean oil biofuel and 80 percent standard petroleum diesel fuel. The resulting biodiesel typically reduces harmful diesel exhaust emissions by upwards of 20 percent while performing just like regular petroleum diesel

The biofuel had not previously been used in the Treasure Valley until the B20 Idaho program began. Since then diesel vehicles have burned approximately 154,000 gallons of B20, about three-quarters of which has been under through the buy down program.

Another 54,000 gallons of B20 have been burned in the B20 Magic Valley program operating out of Twin Falls, about 40 percent of which has been part of the buy down program.

Together, it means approximately 207,000 gallons of the B20 biofuel have been run through diesel vehicles in the two regions. At the 20 percent mixture, that translates to 41,400 gallons of pure B100 biofuel, which, in turn, replaces approximately 31,000 gallons of imported crude oil, according to Energy managers.

“The COMPASS financial commitment and the opening of the Vale station will directly result in improved air quality for the citizens of the region. Not only does B20 biodiesel lower the amount of dangerous emissions going into our air from the tailpipe of diesel vehicles, it also helps our nation move towards its strategic goal of reducing its dependence on foreign imported crude oil now used to refine diesel fuel,” said Dick Larsen, B20 program manager for the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

The first Southwest Idaho public B20 biodiesel pumps opened in April at the Kicks 66 station on the corner of Emerald Street and Five Mile Road in Boise. United Oil of Nampa is the B20 supplier for the Vale outlet, as it is for the Kicks 66 station plus the other B20 fueling now going on in the Treasure Valley.

There are also B20 biodiesel public outlets in Shoshone and Twin Falls. These are fueled by Twin Falls based BriCo of Idaho. The Magic Valley B20 program currently includes 34 commuter and school buses belonging to Trans IV Buses, plus general public pump sales.

The Blaine County School District based in Hailey is slated to begin running about half a dozen school buses on B20 biodiesel later this fall as a precursor to converting its entire school bus fleet. District officials say they believe biofuel can help cut the risks to children from the diesel exhausts of school buses.

Meridian School District has been operating half a dozen of its school buses on B20 biodiesel since the B20 Treasure Valley program began. Later this fall the District will move all 200 of its school buses onto B20 as part of an air quality research project being conducted by COMPASS under a federal grant.